

HUMAN EMBRYOLOGY. By Bradley M. Patten, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Michigan Medical School. Cloth. Price, \$7.00. Pp. 776 with 1366 drawings and photographs grouped as 446 illustrations; 53 in color. Philadelphia: The Blakiston Company, 1946.

This book perhaps will not be considered a classic work in the field of human embryology because of the necessary limitations imposed upon it as a textbook primarily for the medical student, but as such a text it cannot be excelled.

The fluent literary style, the adequate illustrations, the good printing and excellent paper all go together to make a fine book. The beginning medical student will find it easy to study; the practitioner will find it difficult to put down once he opens its pages. There are many clinically important subjects discussed, and to the doctor who is a student, as well as a surgeon, the sections of the book dedicated to the abnormalities of development of the various systems will be most valuable in the interpretation of many pathological conditions.

The bibliography is excellent and contains numerous references to work of clinical importance. This enhances further the value to the clinician who might wish more detailed information on a special subject.

THE CARE OF THE AGED (GERIATRICS). By Malford W. Thewlis. Fifth edition. (St. Louis. The C. V. Mosby Co., 1946.) 500 pages. Price, \$8.00.

Though Thewlis emphasizes the present need for increased, active interest in the growing population of patients past 60, his book is not merely an expression of the current enthusiasm toward geriatrics as a medical specialty. The first edition of the text was published in 1919. In his preface to the third edition, the author stated: "There is a wider recognition today that the ills of the aged are a special problem: first, because many of them are peculiar to the aged, and second, because the presence even of those which also occur in younger people raise special therapeutic problems in senescence." Having suggested by simple prefatory statement that the care of the elderly may become a specialty, he has done with propaganda and proselyting and settles to his text.

The volume is written in eight parts and thirty-three chapters. The first 121 pages are essentially concerned with the general problems of uneventfully growing old. Here is clearly, sensibly, and forcefully expressed the art of treatment of the aged—the philosophy of "geratology" and its relation to the aged group and aged individual. Separate attention is given to the neglect of the elderly, stress and longevity, medico-legal relations most apt to involve the group and its physicians, the general and differential use of therapeutic agents, the details of nursing care. Anatomic, physiologic, and pathologic alterations of senescence are adequately described without the clutter of minutiae. A separate chapter stresses the need for vigilance toward pre-symptomatic disease in routine examinations. In the chapter devoted to hobbies, the author not only stresses their importance but provides several pages of practical suggestions for such activities.

Thewlis writes: "Geriatrics is based upon three fundamental principles: (1) that senescence is a physiologic entity like childhood and not a pathologic state of maturity; (2) that disease in senescence in a normally degenerating organ or tissue is not a disease such as is found in maturity, but is complicated by degeneration; (3) that the object of treatment in senescence should be to restore the diseased organ or tissue to the state normal to senescence and not a restoration to the condition normal in maturity." In the main body of the text which is devoted to Disease of Metabolism and Endocrine Disorders, Infectious Diseases and Focal Infection, and

Systemic Pathologic Conditions, these principles are repeatedly stressed. In this sense these chapters remain throughout devoted to the consideration of aged patients.

In general it is obviously better for the reader to consult the literature and texts devoted to the consideration of the particular disease or system involved by disease in studying an illness concerning a patient of any age group. Statements throughout the text—as some in the chapter on the Cardiovascular System, to be particular—are misleading if one relies solely upon Thewlis' discussions. This is a valid criticism of all geriatrics texts: what they have to tell us that is peculiar to the aged does not supplant that which is peculiar to the disease. However, it is in this special regard that Thewlis' book surpasses its chief rival in the field—Stieglitz's "Geriatric Medicine. . . ." Thewlis seems in general aware that his material does not supplant but only supplements. Furthermore, though other authors have contributed to "The Care of the Aged," their chapters are brief, and the effect is of single authorship. This, or careful editing, has prevented the striking unevenness of merit and bothersome repetition that depreciate Stieglitz's book.

"The Care of the Aged" is practical. It contains all presently available material that is pertinent to its thesis. It is clear, readable and well organized. The index is detailed, extensive, and accurate. Discussions include the scientific finesse of anesthesia, the mathematical angle in surgical risk, the proper size of sox and weight of underwear, the normalities as well as the abnormalities of geriatric sex life, when to take a bath, and how best to clean false teeth.

Throughout there is suggested the thought expressed in a chapter summary: "Let the ultimate comfort of the patient be the main consideration. Be gentle, be conservative, be careful and be kind."

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY. By Anna M. Baetjer, SC.D., Asst. Professor of Physiological Hygiene, School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London—1946. Price, \$4.00.

A cursory inspection of this book would lend belief that it is of value only to the industrial physician, personnel director, or job placement officer. Yet further study reveals its importance to the profession at large.

It has been estimated that 16 million women will be employed in industry by 1950, barring serious economic disorders. The problems entailed cannot be met by industrial medicine since a majority of these women will be working in small plants where there is no medical supervision. The responsibility, therefore, must be met by the general practitioner and special aspects of it by the gynecologist and obstetrician. Too long has the profession been ignorant of what women can or cannot do; doctors have permitted women to do certain tasks when they should have been refused, or have denied them privilege when they should have been allowed. These errors have been based upon legendary assumptions. Dr. Baetjer dispenses these false notions by statistical evidence.

The book deals with the anatomy of the female as to height, weight, reach, fatigability, susceptibility to certain types of strain (or non-susceptibility), types of work to which women are peculiarly suited, value of rest, especially as to change of routine. It considers the incidence of absenteeism, accidental injuries, occupational diseases among women, and such special problems as pregnancy, lactation, menses, menopause, fertility, and the like. An appendix contains a summary of the state labor laws for women of the various states.

"Women in Industry" is not a clinical study, but Dr. Baetjer has contributed a valuable group of statistics